

WHOLE NO. 10,021. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The President's Speech at the Patent Office Fair.

Defeat of the Conference Committee's Report on the Whiskey Tax.

Seventy Thousand Dollars Stolen from an Army Paymaster.

Appointments Confirmed by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 1864.

At the opening of the Patent Office Fair last night, after Mr. Childress had delivered his speech, Major B. French read a patriotic poem, which was loudly applauded. Loud calls being then made for the President, Mr. Lincoln stepped forward and said that he appeared before the audience to apologize for not speaking rather than to speak. He thought that the committee had practiced a little fraud on him, for they did not intimate, when they came to see him in the morning, that they expected him to speak; there he had come before the audience totally unprepared to say anything. That was taking one at great disadvantage, after the eloquent speech of Mr. Childress and the poem of Mr. French. There was great objection to his saying anything, for, according to the committee, his position, everything went into print. (Laughter and applause.) If he made any mistake it might do both himself and the nation harm. (Applause.) It was very difficult to say sensible things. (Laughter.) He therefore hoped that the audience would excuse him, after expressing his desire that the charitable enterprise, in which they were engaged might be abundantly successful. (Applause.)

THE WHISKEY TAX BILL.

The Whiskey Tax bill took a rather singular turn to-day in the House, and the speakers who this morning thought that their efforts had been successful, and the tax arranged to suit them, are to-night again dependent. When the report of the Conference Committee was made, Mr. Washburne spoke very forcibly against it, and other members also protested against its being agreed to. Upon the vote being taken there was a majority of twenty-nine against its adoption, which took the speakers and their friends very much by surprise. The House had previously agreed to the report. The House having thus rejected it, and saved for another committee of conference, the whole matter is again thrown open, and this second committee will have to consider, not only the points of former disagreement, but also the proposition for putting an additional tax upon whiskey on hand as an act of simple justice.

The action of the committee, in reducing the tax proposed by the Senate, to be upon whiskey manufactured after the first of July, also failed to meet the approbation of the House. Of the new committee, Messrs. Washburne and Kasson voted against the report of the Conference Committee, and Mr. Dawson for it.

The new conference committee on the Whiskey bill are expected to hold a meeting on Thursday.

SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS STOLEN FROM AN ARMY PAYMASTER.

Last night Major Malone, Paymaster in the United States army, was robbed of \$70,000, which he had drawn from the Treasury for the purpose of carrying to the front, to certain regiments there. It appears that after drawing the money he took it to his home and put it in a trunk under his bed, and supposed it safe. Some time during the night the trunk was taken from his room, and this morning a servant in the house found the trunk in the stable, broken open, and an amount of postage currency scattered around.

A number of arrests have been made on suspicion.

THE CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL CIRCULAR.

The publication of the Presidential circular has thus far met little to develop the determination of the advocates of Mr. Chase to face the music and carry the war into Africa. It has aroused them to greater exertions and more open demonstrations than before.

CONVULSING POLITICAL DOCTRINES—POISON AND COUNTERACTING POLITICAL DOCTRINES.

It is said that by some means some number of copies of a pamphlet written by Miss Anna Ella Carroll, reflecting severely upon the present administration, got mixed up with a lot of the secret circulars of Senator S. C. Pomeroy, which some of the Senators were franking to parties supposed to be favorable to the nomination of Mr. Chase, and that before the character of the documents was discovered quite an edition had been distributed by these republican Senators, who were greatly chagrined when they discovered they had been putting in circulation, under their hands, a document totally different from the circular.

REVENUE BOARD'S REVISION AT SENATOR MORGAN'S.

The entertainment given last night by ex-Governor Morgan in honor of the National Republican Committee was one of the most elegant ever given in Washington. It was largely attended by distinguished men of all parties. It was a general review of civil, military and diplomatic personnel, who are seldom brought together.

THE QUICKSILVER MINING CASE.

The celebrated case of the Quicksilver Mining Company was opened to-day in the Supreme Court. Only one point was made. The company had purchased the rights of Mr. Garrison, and twenty all other interests in the Bear River gold mine, who were interested in the suit. The purchase was made with the hope to dismiss the appeal. A motion was made to-day upon this ground to throw the case out of court, but was overruled. This leaves the case open, and has produced the impression that this mine will be decided to belong to the government.

CAPTAIN BOHMAN'S DEFENSE.

Captain Bohman's defense has been lately forwarded on several lines of rebel letters. The vigilance of this corps had been kept upon communication with Bohman (quitting) by the rebels. They have also captured quite a quantity of contraband goods in several different places. We understand they have found that a member of the Maryland Legislature, who lives in southern Maryland, has secured a quantity of arms, ammunition, rebel flags, &c., &c.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

The Senate was in executive session three hours to-day, and confirmed a large number of nominations, among them the following:

Franklin Chase, of Maine, Consul General at Tampico.

Joseph C. A. Wingate, of New Hampshire, Consul at

Henry J. Cuniffe, of New Mexico, Consul at Paso del Norte.

George F. Hansen, of Illinois, Consul at Monterey.

Richard W. Hall, of Maine, Consul at Rio Grande, A. Hall.

Richard W. Hall, of Colorado Territory, Consul at

John T. Howard, of Pennsylvania, Consul at Naples.

John C. H. H. of Michigan, Consul at San Juan del Rio.

W. H. H. of Maryland, Consul at Manzanilla.

Joseph C. H. of Ohio, Consul at Amsterdam.

Wm. A. J. of Connecticut, Consul at Hartford.

Joseph H. of New York, Consul at Dublin.

Albert H. of Pennsylvania, Consul at Jerusalem.

Wm. H. of Ohio, Consul at Matanzas.

Albert H. of Maine, Consul at Stockholm.

John C. H. of Pennsylvania, Consul at Candia.

Charles P. H. of New Jersey, Consul at Jananara.

Wm. H. of New York, Consul at Jananara.

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THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 1864.

SENATE.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

A letter was presented to the Senate from the Vice President, stating that he would be absent from the Senate for a short time.

On motion, Mr. Foot, of Vermont, was elected President pro tem.

PROPOSITION OF SLAVERY.

Mr. GRIMM, (rep. of Iowa), presented the petition of numerous citizens of Iowa, asking for the passage of a law prohibiting slavery. Referred to the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

A STANDING ARMY OF NEGROES.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), presented the petition of Mr. John B. Stockton, of Arkansas, which states that he believes that the African race is the best for a soldier, and asking that Congress shall establish, after the close of the present war, a regular army of 200,000 men, composed entirely of negroes, to be officered by white men entirely. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE SUFFRAGE FREEDMEN.

Mr. SUMNER presented the petition of the women of Ohio praying that something be done to amend the constitution of that State, so that the colored race may have the right of suffrage by the present war. Referred to the same committee.

EQUALITY OF SOLDIERS.

Mr. SUMNER also presented petitions from citizens of New York, in favor of placing all soldiers on a similar footing. Referred to the Military Committee.

RECOGNITION OF CONFEDERATE.

Mr. MONROE, (rep. of N. Y.), presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, praying for legislation on the part of Congress to force an acknowledgment of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

THE OBJECT OF THE WAR.

Mr. CARLISLE, (opp. of Va.), offered the following joint resolutions:

Resolved, That the military power of the government can only be rightfully exercised against individuals in arms opposing the authority of the United States.

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MOVEMENTS OF THE PIRATES.

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